

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 282
(3 Apr 2002)



General Situation during March 2002 Forecast until mid-May 2002

The Desert Locust situation continued to be calm during March. Only a few solitarious adults were present in western Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and in western Pakistan. Very little rain fell in the recession area and conditions are generally unfavourable for breeding. No significant developments are likely during the forecast period.

Western Region. A few individual solitarious adults were seen during surveys in western Mauritania, Morocco and in Tamesna, Niger. No significant rain fell in the region and conditions remain dry in most areas except for parts of western Mauritania where there is enough green vegetation and soil moisture to allow locusts to survive and breed on a small scale.

Central Region. Vegetation continued to dry out in the breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea except for the coastal plains of southeastern Egypt where good rains fell in early March. The only locusts reported in the region were a few solitarious adults in

the Tokar Delta, Sudan although these will decline in the coming weeks as temperatures increase and vegetation dries out. Unusually widespread rain fell over the eastern portion of the Arabian Peninsula in UAE and Oman, yet there are not likely to be any locusts present to take advantage of this rainfall.

Eastern Region. Isolated solitarious adults were reported in the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan, first along the coast and, as temperatures increased, further north in the interior to nearly the Afghanistan border. Small-scale breeding is expected to occur during the forecast period causing locust numbers to increase slightly but remain well below threatening levels. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region and no significant developments are likely.

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the Internet.

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Weather & Ecological Conditions in March 2002

Dry conditions prevailed throughout most of the Desert Locust recession area where only sporadic rains were reported at times during March. Conditions may be improving slightly in the spring breeding areas of western Pakistan.

In **West Africa**, no significant rainfall was reported or is thought to have occurred during March for the second consecutive month. Nevertheless, conditions remained favourable in parts of western Mauritania (southern Inchiri, Trarza, southern Adrar and Tagant) where localized green vegetation and enough soil moisture were present to allow Desert Locust survival and limited breeding. At the end of the month, significant clouds were seen over northwestern Mauritania near Bir Moghrein and traces of rain were reported at Akjoujt and south of Chinguetti. Small patches of green vegetation may be present in a few wadis in the Adrar des Iforas, Mali. In Niger, dry conditions persisted in Tamesna where blowing dust was reported during the second half of March.

In **North-West Africa**, isolated showers occurred at times during March in parts of the region. In Morocco, light rains fell along the Atlantic coast between Tan-Tan and Agadir. Prevailing winds were from the southwest and west, interrupted at times by hot easterly (Chergui) winds that increased temperatures to 38°C in the southwest where vegetation is mainly dry and conditions are unfavourable for breeding. In Algeria, light rains fell at Tindouf on the 30th. These may have extended into parts of southwestern Morocco. In Tunisia, light rains fell in the south on the 17-18th.

In **Eastern Africa**, mainly dry conditions were reported except for some localized rainfall. Although light rains may have occurred along a large portion of the Red Sea coast in Sudan on 5-6 March, most of the natural vegetation is dry on the coastal plains and the only vegetation that remains green is the few crops in the Tokar Delta that have not been harvested. In Eritrea, light to heavy showers may have fallen on the southern coastal plains on the 21st where there were

significant clouds present. In Ethiopia, heavy and widespread rains were reported in the Dire Dawa area (63 mm) during the first week of March. Some of this rain may have extended to coastal and interior areas of northwestern Somalia where green vegetation was reported to be persisting along the coast. The rainy season commenced on 18 March on the escarpment in northern Somalia between Borama and Erigavo.

In the **Near East**, rainfall was reported in several countries but conditions remained generally dry. On 5-6 March, light to heavy rainfall, associated with a depression over the central Red Sea, fell along the coast and subcoastal areas in southeastern Egypt from Abu Ramad to Halaib where vegetation was green. This storm extended across the sea to the central coastal plains of Saudi Arabia near Jeddah and into the interior near Hail where light rains occurred. Isolated showers fell at times on the edge of the Empty Quarter at Sharurah. In Yemen, light to moderate rains fell on the central Red Sea coast in early March where vegetation was drying out, in the interior near Al-Hazm and Wadi Jawf on the 8th, and along the southern coast from Lahij to Mukalla on the 18th. In Oman, light rains fell along the dry northern Batinah coast on the 10-11th and temperatures were increasing throughout the country. Widespread light to moderate rains and strong southerly winds, associated with a depression over the Persian Gulf, occurred on the 18th over the eastern portion of the Arabian Peninsula, extending from UAE to southern Oman. Most of the rain fell along the coast between Abu Dhabi and the Musandam Peninsula, but there were also reports of rainfall in the interior of Oman at Burami and Fahud.

In **South-West Asia**, isolated showers fell sporadically in western Pakistan where conditions are expected to be improving in some places. Light rains also fell on 2-3 March along the Indo-Pakistan border between Bahawalapur, Pakistan and Rajasthan, India where conditions are currently dry.



Area Treated

No control operations were reported during March.



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on the first page)

WEST AFRICA

Mauritania

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during the last dekad of February.

During March, a few individual mature adults were seen near Atar (2032N/1308W), west of Tidjikja (1829N1131W) and east of Nouakchott.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults will persist in parts of Inchiri and southern Adrar. By the end of the forecast period, these adults could start to move towards the summer breeding areas of Tagant, Trarza and northern Brakna, supplementing the few adults that are already present in those areas. There is a slight possibility of limited breeding in low-lying areas and depressions if conditions remain favourable.

Mali

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

Isolated locusts may be present and will persist in parts of Timetrine and the Adrar des Iforas where vegetation remains green. No significant developments are likely.

Niger

- **SITUATION**

During surveys carried out 16-23 March, low numbers of mature adults were seen in Tamesna south of In Abangharit (1754N/0559E) at densities of 40-100 per ha and near Arlit (1843N/0721E) at densities of 5-10 per ha.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults will persist in parts of Tamesna during the forecast period.

Chad

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Senegal

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Algeria

- **SITUATION**

A late report indicated that no locusts were present during February.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Morocco

- **SITUATION**

Two immature adults were seen near the southern foothills of the Atlas Mountains east of Guelmim at Maader Ougalid (2903N/0937W) on 19 March.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported and no surveys were carried out during March.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Tunisia

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen in the south and southwest during the third week of March.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN AFRICA

Sudan

- **SITUATION**

During March, a few solitary mature adults at densities of 13-20 per ha were present in the Tokar Delta at Galelama (1820N/3744E) and Dambeil (1818N/3744E). By the third week of the month, surveys had stopped along the Red Sea coastal plains.

- **FORECAST**

Locust numbers will continue to decline in the Tokar Delta as conditions become dry. No significant developments are likely.



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Eritrea

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Somalia

- SITUATION

An unconfirmed and vague report of locusts in the northwest near Borama in February was found not to be true. During March, no locusts were reported and no surveys were carried out.

- FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present in a few areas along the coastal plains between Djibouti and Las Koreh and on the escarpment between Borama and Erigavo. There is a low possibility of breeding in some of these areas if rain falls. No significant developments are likely.

Ethiopia

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on 10-12 March between Dire Dawa and the Somali/Djibouti border.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

- SITUATION

A late report indicated that no locusts were present and no surveys were carried out in February. Similarly, no locusts were reported and no surveys undertaken during March.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

NEAR EAST

Saudi Arabia

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during March.

- FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present and perhaps breeding on a limited scale on the Red Sea coastal

plains near Jizan and Jeddah. No significant developments are likely.

Yemen

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during March.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present in a few places along the central Red Sea coastal plains. Surveys to clarify the situation are highly recommended in these areas.

Egypt

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported from the Red Sea coastal plains or in the Western Desert during March.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Kuwait

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Oman

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported in the northern interior from Burami to Muscat during March.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

United Arab Emirates

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria Arab Republic and Turkey

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Iran

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present on the Vashnum plains near Chabahar in the extreme southeast and perhaps further west along the coast near Jask. Breeding is unlikely to occur unless good rains fall.

Pakistan

• SITUATION

No reports were received during the second half of February.

During the first half of March, isolated immature adults at densities of up to 3 per ha were seen in a few places along the Baluchistan coast between Pasni (2513N/6330E) and Jiwani (2502N/6150E). New infestations were reported further inland in the Turbat Valley, southwest of Khuzdar (2749N/6639E) and north of Dalbandin (2856N/6430E) in the Chagai Hills near the Afghanistan border.

During the second half of March, similar populations at densities of up to 5 per ha persisted in coastal and interior areas of Baluchistan.

• FORECAST

Small-scale breeding may occur in areas of recent rainfall in Baluchistan causing locust numbers to increase slightly but remain well below threatening levels and no significant developments are likely.

India

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during February and the first half of March.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Afghanistan

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.



Announcements

Locust reporting. Affected countries are kindly reminded to make sure that locust situation reports are sent to FAO HQ by the 25th day of the month so the information can be included in the FAO bulletin for the current month; otherwise, it will not appear until the following month. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

Reporting by email. Affected countries are encouraged to send completed *FAO Desert Locust Survey and Control Forms* with a brief interpretation of the results by email to eclo@fao.org.

Desert Locust Guidelines. The revised edition in English was issued on 24 September 2001 and is now available from FAO. Please contact the Locust Group for more information.

eLocust. Details of a new system under evaluation for recording and transmitting locust survey and control data collected in the field can be found on the Internet at:

www.fao.org/news/2001/010601-e.htm

Publications on the Internet. A list of publications that can be downloaded from the FAO Locust webpages is now available (www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/pubslst.htm). New additions are:

- Report of the 23rd session of the NW Africa Commission (CLCPANO) in French and Arabic
- Report of the 36th session of the DLCC recently held in Rome (English and French; Arabic upon request)
- FAO Desert Locust Guidelines, revised edition, 2001 (English)
- FAO Spray Monitoring Form (English)

EMPRES Contingency Planning Seminar. Details of the seminar recently held in Egypt are available on the Internet at: www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/0202cont/CPhome.htm

Desert Locust Control Diploma. The Graduate College of the University of Khartoum is offering a one year post-graduate diploma course in Desert Locust Control that is expected to start in August 2002. Applications should be sent before the first week of June to: Registrar of the Graduate College, University of Khartoum, POB 321, Khartoum, Sudan. For more details: Selbashir@hotmail.com

Upcoming events. The following are scheduled:

- **CLCPANO.** 31st session of the Executive Committee, Agadir (Morocco), 27 May – 2 June
- **EMPRES/WR.** DGPS regional workshop, Nouakchott (Mauritania), 5-10 October
- **EMPRES/CR.** 10th Liaison officers meeting, Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), 27-31 October
- **EMPRES/DLCO-EA/CRC.** 2nd Joint meeting, Cairo (Egypt), 5-6 November
- **EMPRES/WR.** 1st Liaison officers meeting, Niamey (Niger), 15-20 December
- **SW Asia Commission.** 23rd session, Islamabad (Pakistan), 15-19 December



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Glossary of terms

The following special terms are used in the Desert Locust Bulletin when reporting locusts:

NON-GREGARIOUS ADULTS AND HOPPERS

ISOLATED (FEW)

- very few present and no mutual reaction occurring;
- 0 - 1 adult/400 m foot transect (or less than 25/ha).

SCATTERED (SOME, LOW NUMBERS)

- enough present for mutual reaction to be possible but no ground or basking groups seen;
- 1 - 20 adults/400 m foot transect (or 25 - 500/ha).

GROUP

- forming ground or basking groups;
- 20+ adults/400 m foot transect (or 500+/ha).

ADULT SWARM AND HOPPER BAND SIZES

VERY SMALL

- swarm: less than 1 km² • band: 1 - 25 m²

SMALL

- swarm: 1 - 10 km² • band: 25 - 2,500 m²

MEDIUM

- swarm: 10 - 100 km² • band: 2,500 m² - 10 ha

LARGE

- swarm: 100 - 500 km² • band: 10 - 50 ha

VERY LARGE

- swarm: 500+ km² • band: 50+ ha

RAINFALL

LIGHT

- 1 - 20 mm of rainfall.

MODERATE

- 21 - 50 mm of rainfall.

HEAVY

- more than 50 mm of rainfall.

OTHER REPORTING TERMS

BREEDING

- the process of reproduction from copulation to fledging.

SUMMER RAINS AND BREEDING

- July - September/October

WINTER RAINS AND BREEDING

- October - January/February

SPRING RAINS AND BREEDING

- February - June/July

DECLINE

- a period characterised by breeding failure and/or successful control leading to the dissociation of swarming populations and the onset of recessions; can be regional or major.

OUTBREAK

- a marked increase in locust numbers due to concentration, multiplication and gregarisation which, unless checked, can lead to the formation of hopper bands and swarms.

UPSURGE

- a period following a recession marked initially by a very large increase in locust numbers and contemporaneous outbreaks followed by the production of two or more successive seasons of transient-to- gregarious breeding in complimentary seasonal breeding areas in the same or neighbouring Desert Locust regions.

PLAGUE

- a period of one or more years of widespread and heavy infestations, the majority of which occur as bands or swarms. A major plague exists when two or more regions are affected simultaneously.

RECESSION

- period without widespread and heavy infestations by swarms.

REMISSION

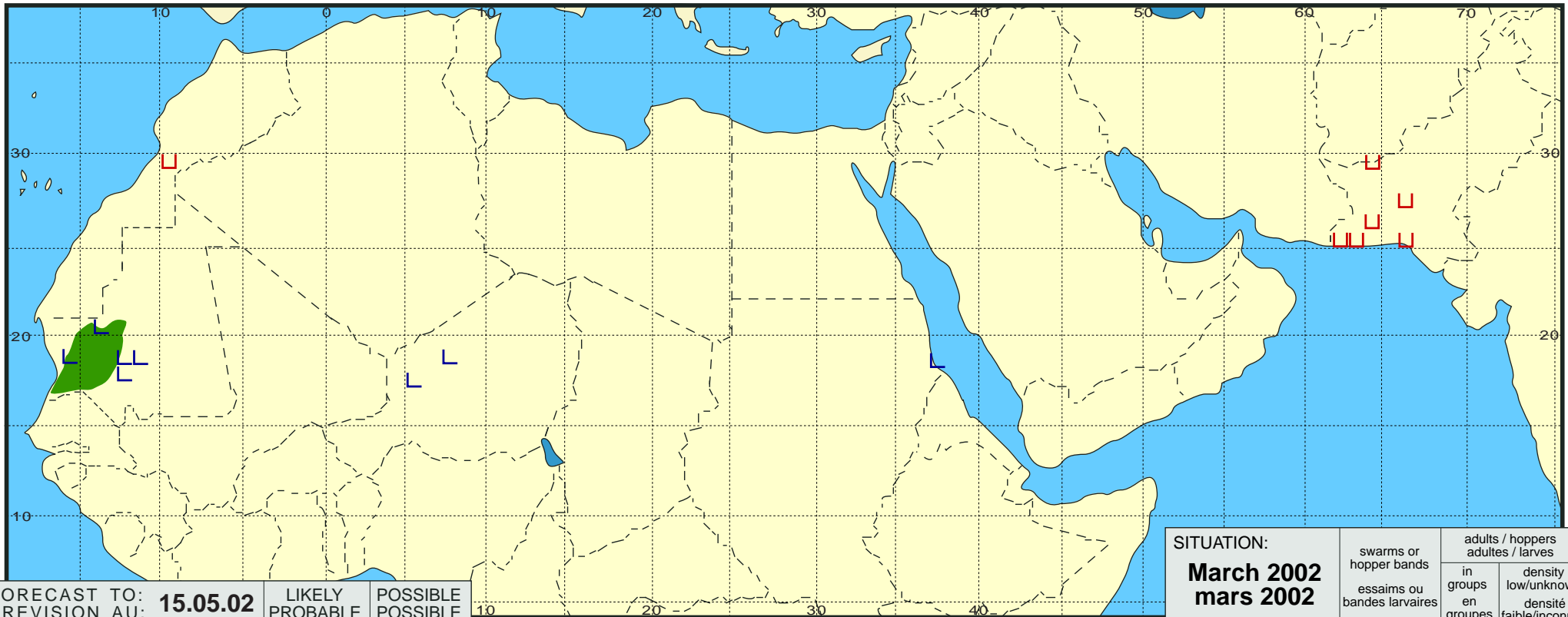
- period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: 15.05.02	LIKELY PROBABLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE
favourable breeding conditions conditions favorables à la reproduction		
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)		
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)		
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant		

SITUATION: March 2002 mars 2002	swarms or hopper bands essaims ou bandes larvaires	adults / hoppers adultes / larves	
		in groups en groupes	density low/unknown densité faible/inconnue
immature adults adultes immatures			
mature or partly mature adults adultes matures ou partiellement matures			
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue			
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs			
hoppers larves			
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)			